

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:23 pm on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll, George Crimmins, Marilyn Murray, Dot Stillinger and Township Committee Liaison Karen Swartz (left 7:30), Mayor Kevin Sullivan (7:25-7:53). Absent Frank Esposito, Matt Palmer & Don Travisano. Also attending Township residents Maureen Kelly and Jennifer Matthews.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2014 and January 2015 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2015 AND JANUARY 2016

Every first or second Tuesday February through December 2015 and the second Tuesday in January 2016.

Dates are: February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 9, July NO MEETING, August 4, September 8, October 6, November 10, December 1 in 2015 and January 12 in 2016.

Dot Stillinger asked for a nomination for Chairperson. Steve Carroll nominated Dot Stillinger, Marilyn Murray second the nomination. The voice vote was unanimous. Dot Stillinger nominated Steve Carroll for vice chair, Marilyn Murray second the nomination. The voice vote was unanimous.

Marilyn Murray motioned to approve the December 2, 2014 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Steve Carroll 2nd, with all in favor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MATT, STEVE, DOT AND GEORGE ON THEIR UPWARD MOBILITY.

Matt, Steve, and Dot were reappointed and George was moved up to regular member at the Township Committee Reorganization meeting on Jan 6.

GREEN TEAM MEETING 7:28 – 8:03

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC vice Chair.

Reviewed proposed & completed actions for Sustainable Jersey for June 2015 bronze re-certification. Steve Carroll informed Mayor Sullivan of resolutions necessary for re-certification to meet June deadline. Mayor Kevin Sullivan spoke regarding the Pilgrim Pipeline.

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

GIRALDA PURCHASE

Freeholders approved spending \$10M for the purchase of the Giralda tract(s) on Woodland Rd. Township will own the property; Morris County Park Commission will maintain it.

PILGRIM PIPELINE

We get our water from NJ American which draws from the Passaic River. A spill where the pipeline crosses the river will drain towards the drinking water treatment plant in Little Falls and be costly to remove. If the pipeline spills in Chatham Borough, which jointly with Madison gets its water from wells, the aquifer may become hopeless contaminated and they may end up having to go with NJ American also. Remember that a number of years ago Madison had to spend millions to clean up wells from spills at a dry cleaners near Staples. Spills in Chatham Township will leak onto backyards and drain into the Great Swamp. We might have to get out the detergent and wash turtles and ducks.

- Pipeline page on Chatham Township website at <http://www.chathamtownship-nj.gov/pipeline/index.html>.

TREE PROJECT

- Trees at SBS.

- Joe Dunn is doing an inventory of the remaining Chatham Township trees over the winter so we can know how many trees we will have available in spring. Maybe plant one or two at the entrance to GVPCA. Maybe some at municipal building. Plan to line up sites over the winter so planting can start promptly in spring. Identify sites for street trees. Replace trees in strip between sidewalk and street where original trees have died. There are apparently many street trees that have died and need replacing. This may need to be a separate project.

UPDATED ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ORDINANCE

Reviewed draft of proposed amendments to the Chatham Township Environmental Commission ordinance. Revisions to continue as needed, before final submission to the Township Committee. G. Crimmins.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- GOLDEN RIVER HOMES, LLC, 11 SUNSET DRIVE, BLOCK: 61 LOT: 16. Complete 6/13/2014. Application to the Board of Adjustment for steep slope variance. The lot is vacant and slopes steeply down toward Fairmount Ave. Memo sent to Board of Adjustment on August 20 was approved by CTEC. Application was continued before the Board of Adjustment.
- 493 Green Village Rd., Block 48.21 Lot 172, 12-11-2014, application to NJDEP for a General Permit to replace a malfunctioning septic tank.
- 580 River Rd., Block 62 Lot 56, 11-24-2014, application to NJDEP for extension of LOI granted 12-16-2009.
- Rolling Knolls, 11-18-14, application to NJDEP for GP14 equivalency for B48 L189.02, B48.20 L184-189-189.01. For remedial investigation including installation of monitoring wells.
- The Farm at Green Village, 403 Green Village Rd., Block 48.18 Lots 140, 142, 143 and Block 144 Lot 48, 1-10-15. Application to Board of Adjustment to be considered as a Market Garden under the Market Garden ordinance and variances for keeping of farm animals in a Market Garden. Also requesting variances for building improvements. Hearing on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer Matthews, PTO representative from Southern Blvd School, spoke regarding the invasive plant problems at the school, mostly the playground and area fencing. Jennifer contacted Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center regarding management of the invasive plants. A representative from the OEC has agreed to host an informational gathering at the library (date to be determined), on treatment to get rid of invasive plants. All are welcomed, as Southern Blvd School is looking for extra hands on assistance.

REPORTS

- Planning Board

No recent meeting. D. Travisano.

- Township Committee

K. Swartz, Township Committee liaison.

- Open Space Committee

Giralda purchase. Need to choose Open Space liaison.

- Communications Committee

- Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to F. Esposito who will work with Township Web Master Tom Salvas. F. Esposito, Chair.

- Recycling Committee

- Township gets money back for our recycling tonnage. Ask MUA for estimate. M. Murray.

Green Vision, Randolph NJ is a nonprofit e-cycling organization. They take CD's, computers, monitors, laptops, and televisions. If something uses a battery or has a plug, they take it.

- F. Esposito, as CTEC recycling chair, contacts Township and County recycling officials to obtain information and bring it back to the EC for discussion.

- Community Education and Outreach Committee.

Environmental film series at Library of the Chathams – every 1st Thursday of the month. “Chasing Ice”. (February movie). The award-winning documentary uses time-lapse cameras to capture a multi-year record of the world's changing glaciers.

- CTEC receives daily e-mails. F. Esposito responds and archives the messages. F. Esposito, Chair.

- Conservation Easement Subcommittee
 - CTEC should pursue a mechanism for conservation easement monitoring and recording.
 - Lot grading plan is being revised to include more protection for conservation easements.

NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- What is the Township position on keeping bees? Bees are becoming stressed. Note that the Morris County Mosquito Commission routinely sprays Bti from airplanes on many waterbodies in the county.
- Bears have been sighted on Huron Drive. Bear workshop was held in November. EC bear education project? Update NRI with a section on bears?
- Invasive Species Subcommittee
 - New Jersey has an invasive species strike force (www.njsst.org) which is mapping invasive species and looking for volunteers.
 - New and very good NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>. Use Internet Explorer, not Chrome.
 - Very good Morris County mapping utility at <http://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher.html>, hit Advanced Data Search. Gives information about each parcel and has aerials layer.
 - Discussion about requiring subdivision and site plans and related documents to be submitted in pdf format. If that happens CTEC should be on the list to receive all pdf plans and documents. Currently the township requires applicants to submit 25 paper copies of every sheet and document, which amounts to a large stack of paper and is costly for the applicant.
 - Possible projects for grants. Trails on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area? Trails on the Giralda property?
 - Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District (www.mcsd.org/) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Chatham Township, by means of its lot grading plan requirement, is one of four Morris County towns that assume the responsibility for soil and erosion management instead of leaving it to the county.
 - Note final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Option B was chosen. Hunting, including for turkeys, will be allowed, but no horses. Management areas will be consolidated into larger but fewer parcels. Public meetings were held in June. Read the Plan at http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Swamp/what_we_do/conservation.html.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- August 2014. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning variances needed for steep slopes on a property on Sunset Drive. Memo to Planning Board concerning development on steep slopes on a property on Mountain Avenue. Letter of thanks to Chatham Disposal Company for pickup of trash from a workday on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area on July 8.
- June 2014. Memo to NJDEP concerning wetlands permits for a property on Loantaka Lane South.
- April 2014. Memo to NJDEP concerning application for an LOI on Ferndale Road. Memo to Planning Board suggesting a conservation easement be obtained on steep slopes on a subdivision on Longview Road.
- March 2014. Memo to Planning Board urging adoption of Natural Resources Inventory as a section of the Conservation Element of the Master Plan.
- January 2014. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning violation of conservation easement on steep slopes on a property on Susan Drive, memo to NJDEP urging an applicant for subdivision on Shunpike Road to obtain an LOI.

EVENTS

- Thursday, Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. The NY-NJ Coalition to Stop the Pilgrim Pipeline (<http://stoppilgrimpipeline.com/>) is hosting an informational session on January 15, 2015 in Florham Park at 7:00 pm–8:45 pm, Florham Park Public Library, 107 Ridgedale Avenue, Florham Park, NJ. Presentation describing why local communities should oppose the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline.
- Saturday, April 18, 2015, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Thirteenth Annual Open Space Workday at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area. Fine for families; old bottles and artifacts have been found in the trash piles.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill and Chatham Borough Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN

9:03

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary